The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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None should expect to prosper who go out of the way of duty. —Aughey.

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LABOR INJUNCTION "PRINCIPLE" IS VICIOUS

Alarmed at labor's growing resentment against labor injunctions, the Chicago Journal of Commerce says:

"If the injunctive powers of the court are to be used by corporations in such a fashion as this, Congress would be justified in listening to the plea of organized labor that the whole injunctive process be outlawed in labor disputes."

This is another way of saying that wrong may continue if it does not arouse popular resentment.

Labor insists that tyranny against one individual is as abhorrent as against a thousand.

A wrong principle can not be justified because it affects but a few.

A majority can protect itself. Constitutions and fundamental guarantees are for the individual. These protect the minority against majority tyranny.

The enlarged use of the labor injunction shows how wrong increases when unchallenged. The injunction judge has set up his own government. He protects "yellow" dog contracts, aids corporations in evicting strikers and silences any citizen who would advise workers to join a trade union.

Every conceivable "interference with business" is classed as contempt of court and punished by the injunction judge, who denies trial by jury and other elemental guarantees.

It is too much to ask corporation lawyers who have graduated to the judiciary to be cautious in the use of their power that Congress permits them to use.

Unchecked power in the hands of any man is dangerous.

The power to issue these writs should be taken from the courts—not because the power is excessively used, but because the power is used at all.

The Federal Constitution authorizes Congress to define the jurisdiction of subordinate federal courts.

These courts should be notified that injunctions can be issued only when the plaintiff has no other remedy at law.

This will re-establish government by law and give strikers the same status as other citizens.

The present system brings popular government into contempt.

PLEADERS FOR SACCO UPHELD AFTER STATE EXECUTED MEN

Boston, Dec. 17.—To correct "some serious defects in our methods of administering justice in murder cases," the Massachusetts Judicial Council unanimously recommends that the State Supreme Court be empowered to consider murder appeals from lower courts, as provided in other States.

The council is composed of lawyers who are appointed by the governor to suggest law changes to the state legislature.

The council's recommendation is a vindication of citizens who urged postponement of the Sacco-Vanzetti execution until some method could be devised whereby they could secure a new trial.

Under present Massachusetts laws once the trial judge alone acts on appeals in murder cases. He alone is judge of his own prejudice and of additional testimony that may be submitted to support a re-trial plea. These facts were emphasized by thousands of American citizens in the Sacco-Vanzetti case, but their pleas against this unfairness were drowned by charges that the two men were anarchists, draft dodgers and aliens, and that their case was before the courts for seven years.

The fact was ignored that they had but one trial; that the merits of their case was never passed upon—nor could be—by the State Supreme Court; that they charged they were being forced to death by a prejudiced judge who denied them a new trial. As the proven prejudice by Judge Thayer was outside his court, relief was impossible.

Under present statutes the Supreme Court can only act in criminal appeals "on abuse of discretion" of the trial judge.

"It is needless to say," asserts the Judicial Council in its annual report, "that such an abuse will so rarely be found by the Supreme Court to have existed that there is no real appeal from that official act. It follows that the final decision of many of the most important questions which arise in connection with a murder trial, as in other cases, is committed, so far as courts are concerned, to a single judge by the Superior Court."

This position, taken by a high legal body of the state three months after the execution of Sacco and Vanzetti, is identical with the position taken by a substantial portion of the thoughtful citizens of this country.

These citizens insisted that it is unthinkable that men should be sentenced to death by a judge whom they charge with prejudice, and are not permitted to have another court pass on their claim.

PATRICK F. O'MEARA DEAD

New Haven, Conn., Dec. 17.—Patrick F. O'Meara, president of the Connecticut Federation of Labor, was found dead in his bed at his home here. Death was due to heart disease.

"WE DO NOT CARE TO DISCUSS"

"We do not care to join in such a discussion," replied Pittsburgh Terminal Coal Corporation to Secretary of Labor Davis' invitation to join in a conference to settle the miners' strike.

This anti-union concern manipulates it is entrenched behind every power of federal and state governments. Federal Judge Schoonmaker orders no one to "interfere" with the company. If a miner is evicted it is contempt of court for a friend to aid him by posting a bond that the eviction process may be contested. The state legalizes hordes of gunmen who are paid for by the company.

When several states urged George Pullman to arbitrate the A. R. U. strike in 1904, the sleeping car magnate replied: "I have nothing to arbitrate."

George F. Baer, president of the Philadelphia & Reading Railroad, and leading coal operator, made a similar reply in 1902 to an appeal that a miners' strike be arbitrated. Mr. Baer made the historic refusal:

"The rights and interests of the laboring man will be protected and cared for —not by the labor agitators, but by the Christian men to whom God in His infinite wisdom has given the control of the property interests of the country, and upon the successful management of which the prosperity depends."

The coal company has the same feudalistic outlook, but it is more crafty in shielding its autocracy.

Organized labor's reply to arrogant coal barons should be: First, continuous money and supplies to 750,000 men, women and children in the strike areas; second, unceasing organizing activity and unrelenting opposition to the labor injunction.

MUSSOLINI'S AUTOCRACY DEFINED

By Merle Thorpe, editor of Nation's Business, in interview with Italian Dictator

Before I can discuss the corporate state (of Italy), I must put, as simply and clearly as I can, Mussolini's idea of government.

First, he does not believe, as we do, that government exists for the individual. With him, the state moves, or has power to move, everything exist for the state. If Tony Lazeretto does anything, or wishes to do anything which may interfere, however slightly, with the state's plans, Tony must give way.

In America, the state has signed a contract (the Constitution) with John Smith, guaranteeing him certain things. If Congress passed a law sentencing John Smith to death and President Coolidge signed it, John Smith could appeal to the Supreme Court under his contract and the court would promptly declare such action a violation of contract. That is what is meant by a guarantee of life.

Mussolini's government is an absolute negation of democracy. Tony Lazeretto has no contract. He has no appeal. A decree from Rome, or an order issued by one of Mussolini's governors or mayors, may deprive him of his liberty. He has no right of property. The state is not of him, nor for him to discuss, comment upon, nor take part in. He exists for the state and for the state's pleasure.

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PUBLIC MONEY USED FOR COMPANY UNION

New York, Dec. 17.—This city, through its Transit Commission, has called on the Interborough Rapid Transit Company for payment of $7,000,000 which has been improperly charged against the city to the benefit of Interborough stockholders.

This corporation is seeking to enjoin every trade unionist and sympathizer from interfering with their company "union" and "yellow dog."

The Transit Commission shows that a large portion of the $7,000,000 was used to break strikes and to maintain control of employes. Ivy Lee, who wrote the constitution of the company "union," was paid $225,660.78 for general propaganda work. Lee is a trained publicity man. During the Colorado miners' strike in 1913-14, Lee was "loaned" by the Pennsylvania railroad to the Colorado Fuel and Iron Company to mold public opinion in favor of John Rockefeller concern.

The Interborough, the Transit Commission shows, spent $270,841.70 on its company "union" and "yellow dog." Welfare expenses totaled $220,535. Of this amount $115,000 was paid salary to H. H. Vreeland, a director. The 1926 strike of employes who rejected the company "union" cost $967,876.37. This included a bonus of one-half a month's salary to officers and employes who refused to join the independent walkout.

Frank Hedley, president of the Interborough, and another official, were paid $145,654.59 as patent fees on machinery.

DAVIS CALLS COAL STRIKE PARLEY; SOME LARGE OPERATORS WANT WAR

Washington, Dec. 17.—With the approval of the President, Secretary of Labor Davis called a conference of coal owners and representatives of the United Mine Workers for the purpose of discussing methods to adjust the bituminous coal strike and consider the coal industry as a whole. Executive sessions were held by the parties in interest.

President Lewis of the miners and associate officers accepted the invitation. Some of the larger coal owners declined. The Pittsburgh Terminal Coal Corporation, which has cut wages of its strikebreakers three times and has secured a federal injunction, notified Secretary Davis: "We do not care to join in such a discussion." The Pittsburgh Coal Company, another concern that violated its union agreement, replied: "We will stand by our present employes and policies."

In a second futile peace telegram to these coal owners, Secretary Davis said:

"Deeply regret your decision not to attend conference called by me and ask that you reconsider. The subject for consideration is far broader than any immediate wage question. As said in my previous telegram, this conference is for frank and free discussion of all questions at issue.

"The public is now aware of overproduction, over-development, the vast waste of our natural resources, and hopes for some move toward permanent stabilization of the industry to guarantee adequate supplies of coal with fair profit to the operator and steady employment at fair wages to the miner.

"It is a great mistake to assume this conference is called in the interest of labor only. I personally, and representative of the Department of Labor, have discussed the matter with more operators than miners. All previous conferences attended by miners could have been attended by operators had they so desired. Nothing is ever lost by conferring, and with many operators losing money and thousands of miners out of work, the public has become much interested.

"Even if the mines be more or less fully manned, as stated, does this guarantee the industry a future free from the same grievances and the same unsettlement and unemployment as now exist?

"The present time seems to me the more appropriate for conference because the existing supply of coal will permit of discussion without tension or prejudice. On behalf of the public and thousands of miners unemployed and in the interests of the industry itself, I would strongly urge you to be present for full consideration of the problem in its broad humanitarian as well as economic aspects."

LABOR LAWS URGED

New York, Dec. 17.—Officers of the New York State Federation of Labor presented their legislative program to Governor Smith with the request that he embody same in his annual report. The proposals include injunction relief, an exclusive state fund for workmen's compensation insurance, labeling of prison-made goods, restoration of direct primary law and state development of public water powers.

LUDLOW KILLINGS MAY AGAIN HAPPEN

Denver, Dec. 17.—The Ludlow horror, in which 33 men, women and children were killed by coal guards wearing the uniform of the State militia, may again happen if the Colorado mine strike is not settled, declares the Denver Trades and Labor Assembly in a public statement.

The unionists appointed a committee of 100 to arouse public opinion to the seriousness of this I. W. W. movement.

"Waiving aside for the moment the present strike leadership," the statement says, "the fact remains that the mine workers of Colorado must have real grievances to impel them to go out on strike in such numbers, and the public should know the facts.

"Organized labor in Colorado has not been a party to the present conflict, but the trend of events leads to the conclusion that unless public conscience is aroused as to the seriousness of the situation the Ludlow massacre may be re-enacted."

The Colorado Fuel and Iron Company, a Rockefeller concern, maintains a company "union" and dominates the Industrial Association of Colorado. President Welborn of the company affects a blissful ignorance of conditions. In a public statement he claims his employes are happy and contented, but they are not working because they are frightened by pickets.

TWO SENATORS BARRED BY NON-PARTISAN VOTE

Washington, Dec. 17.—By a vote of 56 to 30 the Senate refused to seat William S. Vare of Pennsylvania. By a vote of 53 to 28 the Senate took similar action in the case of Frank L. Smith of Illinois. Both voted were irregularities in Philadelphia and Pittsburgh are also charged. This made it possible to overcome a majority vote in other sections of the State in favor of William B. Wilson, former Secretary of Labor.

Mr. Smith is charged with receiving large campaign contributions from Samuel Insull, Illinois public utility magnate, while he (Smith) was a member of the Illinois Public Utilities Commission that is supposed to protect the public interest in controversies with public utilities corporations.

The anti-Vare resolution, originally introduced by Senator Norris, and which also included Senator-elect Smith, declared that the expenditure of "such a large sum of money is contrary to sound public policy, harmful to the dignity and honor of the Senate and dangerous to the perpetuity of a free government."

Senators who favor seating Vare and Smith insist that the question be first probed. They claim the present method debars two states from full representation.

"FREE" SENATORS WIN; RECORD VOTE ASSURED

Washington, Dec. 17.—The Republican Senate majority has promised five independent Senators there will be no unnecessary delay in reaching a vote on three measures especially favored by the independents. The Senators are Messrs. La Follette and Blaine (Wis.), Frazier and Nye (N. Dak.) and Shipstead (Minn.) The three measures are: Farm relief along lines of the McNary-Haugen bill, labor injunction relief and an investigation of the government's policy in Central and South America.

Senator Curtis was first asked to give assurance that a vote would be reached this session. The Republican floor leader referred the matter to a conference of his party associates, when the agreement was made.

Excepting Mr. Shipstead, who is listed as a Farmer-Labor, the other Senators are Republicans. This group can not be antagonized because of the Republican's hair-line control of the Senate.

The independents have driven a hard bargain as their price for aiding the Republicans to organize the Senate. In several of the most important committees the independents will hold the balance of power. In others they will be able, by voting with the Democrats, to create a deadlock. They have secured two important committee chairmanships, but they insist on retaining their independence.

The refusal of Vare to retire from a few years ago when the late Senators La Follette and Ladd, together with Senators Frazier and Brookhart, were ousted from committee chairmanships on the ground that they were not "regular" Republicans. Their course could be spared at that time because of the large Republican majority.

ABSENTEE LANDLORDS FILCH PORTO RICANS

Washington, Dec. 17.—Porto Rico is being drained of her resources by American and foreign capitalists, said Santiago Iglesias, secretary of the Pan-American Federation of Labor, in a forum address in this city.

Two-thirds of the higher annual profits that the workers create in Porto Rico create are taken out of that country, while social and economic conditions become more intolerable, the speaker said.

"It is not strange that more than half a million workers—men, women and children—engaged in farm and industrial work are in a continuous depressing condition. The large exportation of profits has prevented any reinvestment of capital during the last 20 years.

"Prosperity that Porto Rican visitors see may mislead one into the belief that this prosperity is general. Only the few are prosperous. Workers are being pushed to lower and lower standards, while American and foreign capitalists demand larger returns that are lost to the island."

Mr. Iglesias said the representatives of all political parties in Porto Rico presented a memorial to President Coolidge asking him to recommend to Congress that the island be empowered to elect their own governor and to permit that legislature to remedy serious economic difficulties of the people caused by land monopoly and the absorption of profits by absentee owners.

"The President did not choose to recommend to Congress any of the petitions," said Mr. Iglesias.

FEDERAL AID TO STATES OPPOSED BY PRESIDENT

Washington, Dec. 17.—In his budget message to Congress, the President records opposition to federal aid to states.

"As shown in the Maternity and Infancy Act," he said, "when once the government engages in such an enterprise it is almost impossible to terminate its connection therewith. We should not only decidedly refuse to countenance additional federal participation in state aid projects, but should make careful study of all our activities of that character with a view of curtailing them."

Under the Maternity and Infancy Act the federal government duplicates any amount a state appropriates for this educational activity."

NO MONEY TO ENFORCE WOMEN'S 9-HOUR LAW

Austin, Texas, Dec. 17.—The attorney general has ruled that women attendants in State institutions come under the Texas nine-hour law, but there is no money to provide additional extra employes. The Governor will be asked for a deficiency of $90,000 that the law may be enforced.

TYPOS WILL ARBITRATE

Fresno, Cal., Dec. 17.—Printers in commercial shops returned to work after a four-days' strike. Employers will pay the requested $51 a week and both sides agree to submit the dispute to arbitration.

SLOCUM CAPTAIN DEAD; "GOAT" FOR DISASTER

New York, Dec. 17.—Capt. William Van Schaick, who commanded the excursion steamer General Slocum when that craft burned in the East River, November 15, 1904, a loss of 1,000 lives, June 15, 1904, died in Utica, this State. He was 90 years old.

Since the disaster he had been nearly blind in consequence of sticking to his post at the wheel until his clothing was in flames in order to beach the steamer. He was sentenced to prison but was later pardoned by President Taft after serving half of a 10-year sentence for criminal negligence.

The popular fury against Captain Van Schaick permitted the owners of the General Slocum to escape responsibility. In the eyes of the law the captain of a vessel is responsible for life and property. The owners of the vessel order him to break the law but if he equips his vessel with an efficient crew and life-saving apparatus, the owners replace him for a less expensive captain. If he "takes a chance" and fails, he either loses his license or is convicted of violating criminal law and is sent to prison.

LOW TEXTILE WAGE

Scranton, Pa., Dec. 17.—"Silk workers' wages in this section are as low as any in the South. Some home industries lower yet manufacturers complain about competition," says Mary Keleher, organizer United Textile Workers of America.

In some mills wages range from $4 to $14 a week. Even this is unsatisfactory to employers who speed up machinery and give the workers more machines to operate, says Miss Keleher.

IGNORE WOMEN'S LAWS

Phoenix, Ariz., Dec. 17.—The Arizona Industrial Commission warns employers to obey laws governing the employment of women.

CUTE MOVE BLOCKED BY LABOR SECRETARY

Washington, Dec. 17.—Secretary of Labor Davis seems to have outpointed Governor Fisher of Pennsylvania and coal owners who would raise the state's rights question if the Federal Government attempted to mediate the coal strike.

The Secretary wrote to Governor Fisher: "The Federal officials, while glad to co-operate in every helpful way, prefer to take the initiative in the matter to State authorities. I would be glad to learn if you have in mind convening a conference for that purpose."

Governor Fisher, press dispatches say, "cleverly construed the Secretary's letter to mean that he had some Federal project in mind" by stating that "you have in mind calling a conference. I do not have any plans formulated that would in any way interfere with such a project on your part."

Later developments proved that instead of a trap, Secretary Davis, Governor and his coal owner friends walked into a trap. Now they can not claim that the State authorities should call the conference.

WM. B. PRENTER DIES

Cleveland, Dec. 17.—William B. Prenter, for nearly half a century an official of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, died at his home here. He was 72 years old. When Warren S. Stone died in 1925 he was placed in charge of the brotherhood's affairs. Last year the convention installed Alvanzy Johnson as grand chief engineer.

82 CENTS OF DOLLAR FOR WAR PURPOSES

Washington, Dec. 17.—According to the annual report of Secretary of the Treasury Mellon, 82 cents of United States taxpayer's dollars is spent upon past and future wars.

"Budget figures are not a mathematical certainty as many of these expenditures change to "a distinctly civil character in times of extended peace," it is stated.

"The best known compilation of data in readily available form for use in answering this inquiry was made for the years 1910 to 1920 by the late Edward B. Rosa of the United States Bureau of Standards. His figures were later brought up to 1924 by the Bureau of Efficiency."

The report says that for the fiscal year 1927, 82 cents of the taxpayer's dollar was spent for "wars, past and future."

On the same basis, in 1926, 81 cents went for war, and in 1925, 80 cents. Back in 1915 it was 62 cents. It rose to 90 cents in 1918 during the World War, fell to 70 cents in 1920, then climbed until it was 87 in 1922 and 85 in 1923.

The 1928 budget carries $645,000,000 for "national defense," an increase of about $20,000,000 over the present fiscal year. Adding in figures for "retired pay" for those on the inactive list, subject to call in time of war, the total rises to $673,069,675, an increase over current figures of more than $48,000,000.

LATIN AMERICAN GIRLS ASK FOR WORKERS' AID

Washington, Dec. 17.—Telephone girls in Bogota, Colombia, South America, appeal to President Green to aid in reforming them of oppressive working conditions.

The petitioners fear to sign their names. "We are women, see us, and are resting to any newspaper and asking them to publish your answer or deliver the message to any of the operators," the girls say.

"We call for mercy from you, as the present existing condition is terrible and we are forced to work, just to earn a living. Salaries are very low and there is no way of asking for an increase, as anybody asks for increase will be fired immediately."

The company is charged with violating every labor law.

COMPANY "UNION" USED TO DEFEAT BOND ISSUE

New York, Dec. 17.—The charge that the Interborough Rapid Transit company-controlled "union" was used to defeat the $300,000,000 subway bond issue is contained in a letter to Mayor Walker by attorneys for the Amalgamated Association of Street Car Men.

The unionists have repeatedly claimed that the transit company uses its "union" for political purposes and that this power would be lost if employes were permitted to join a legitimate organization.

OLD-AGE PENSIONS URGED IN OTTAWA

Ottawa, Ontario, Dec. 17.—Representatives of the Canadian Trades and Labor Congress presented a list of remedial legislative proposals to the provincial cabinet. The list included old-age pensions for the Province of Ontario.

Under an act passed by the Dominion Parliament a province may adopt the old-age pension law and the Dominion will pay one-half of the expense. The old-age pension law operates in British Columbia, and Manitoba has signified its intention of passing such a law.

The trade unionists also urged an unemployment insurance act. The Dominion government has denied responsibility for this relief in the past.

"MIKE" RATCHFORD DEAD

Massillon, Ohio, Dec. 17.—Michael D. Ratchford, well-known labor leader and ex-president of the United Mine Workers of America, died at his home here.

He served as president of the United Mine Workers in 1897-98. Prior to that time he served in various other union capacities.

He was commissioner of Labor Statistics of Ohio for eight years and was commissioner for Ohio and Illinois coal owners. For the last several years he has lived here, the home of his boyhood struggles.

WILD EXPLOITATION OF FILIPINOS FAVORED BY SECRETARY OF WAR

Washington, Dec. 17.—Education in the Philippines withdraws people from production; these islands should be coolieized; corporations should be permitted to exploit this land.

The above suggestions, presented in diplomatic terms, are included in the annual report of Secretary of War Dwight F. Davis.

The Secretary favors the wildest exploitation of rubber trees. He does not accept the theory Congress had in mind when it limited the land holdings of large corporations which extends the Chinese exclusion laws to islands under the jurisdiction of this country.

"We have enough people in the islands the labor available for any rapid development," he says. He ignores the evil social consequences that befall a people when they are driven from the land and makes this defense of his land concentration policy:

"Restrictive land legislation designed so prevent the accumulation of lands in relatively fewer hands and the harmful exploitation of the native, has prevented the beneficial use of idle public lands, deprived the governments, counties and local of much needed revenue and left large sections of the islands as breeding places for pests which attack the native animals and crops and endanger public health."

The suggestion that the Philippines be coolieized and that land values be low is in line with recent discussions among capitalists who urged that one of these islands be purchased from Spain and that it be placed under the jurisdiction of Congress, rather than the Philippine legislature. These capitalists were hopeful that Congress, located several thousand miles away was less liable to interfere with their exploitation of workers.

If the islands are coolieized, American capitalists can use this cheap labor in certain industries to compete in Far East markets with the coolie labor of other nations.

The concentration of land ownership has been perfected in Porto Rico, where American and foreign corporations make no pretense of obeying the law limiting such holdings. These workers are peonized and subsist on a wage that ranges from 40 cents a day for women to 60 cents for men.

DAVIS AND LEWIS ON RADIO

Washington, Dec. 17.—Secretary of Labor Davis and President John L. Lewis of the United Mine Workers will broadcast addresses on the coal strike over the radio Monday night, December 19, at 9 o'clock, Eastern standard time, it was announced by the Department of Labor.

"POWER TRUST HAS FALSE CRY TO HIDE EXCESSIVE CHARGES

Washington, Dec. 17.—George B. Cortelyou, Secretary of the Treasury under President Roosevelt, is chairman of the power trust lobby formed to kill the Norris' Muscle Shoals bill and the Johnson Boulder Dam bill, and the most powerfully financed lobby in American history, asserts Judson King, director National Popular Government League.

"The slogan selected by Cortelyou's committee is 'Keep the Government Out of Business.' They charge 'Bolshevism and destruction of the American system of government,' and infer that public ownership of a power plant is unpatriotic," says Mr. King.

"The real reason why the power crowd fear the passage of Norris and Johnson is that they will show up the extortionate profits the power interests are making.

"For example, since June, 1925, the War Department has operated three units of the great Muscle Shoals hydro-electric plant. This energy has been sold to the Alabama Power Co. per kilowatt hour, which is about what it costs the company to produce the juice in its own private plants.

"The company sold this juice to domestic users all over the territory in which it operates for 8 cents—or 80 mills—per kilowatt hour, and sometimes 15 cents in small towns. Figure this for yourself.

"Florence, Alabama, is a small city which lies within a stone's throw of the Muscle Shoals and is served electrically by the Alabama Power Company. Last spring I heard Mr. McFarland, financial director of the city, tell Secretary of War Davis that his town paid the Alabama Power Company $10,000 a year for street lighting and that the current used by the company for this purpose was purchased of Uncle Sam at a cost of about $330.

"If the Norris bill were in action, the city of Florence could buy juice direct from Uncle Sam and save the taxpayers' money.

"This is the only 'Bolshevism' in the Norris proposal."

DAVIS CALLS 'BOLSHEVISM' IN THE CHILD LABOR AMENDMENT

Portland, Ore., Dec. 17.—The school board rules that business concerns can not use the public schools to recruit holiday employes. The Central Labor Council showed that one concern hired the children a few hours a day under the guise of "teaching them business methods."

HARD COAL WORKERS ADOPT MINE KIDDIES

Shamokin, Pa., Dec. 17.—Anthracite miners are "adopting" children of bituminous miners who can not provide a Christmas for their kiddies because of the nine-months' strike.

Local unionists are working on short time, and are paying an assessment to support the hard coal strike, but they are determined to bring Yuletide cheer to the helpless children. Various towns in the anthracite section are organized for this purpose. Local citizens are aiding this movement.

BREAD BUYERS CHEATED

Trenton, N. J., Dec. 17.—Bread buyers in this state are short-weighted, according to J. Harry Foley, State Superintendent of Weights and Measures. The same is true in the ice cream industry. Out of 25,637 deliveries of coal that were reweighed, 720 were found incorrect. More than 218 prosecutions resulted in fines of $4,590.

WHERE "PULL" FAILS VICTIM CAN'T COLLECT

New York, Dec. 17.—A contract for the use of a trade union label is unenforcable, according to Supreme Court Justice John M. Tierney.

The decision was made in the case of Otto Wiedhopf against Alexander Wolf, a lawyer, to recover $5,450 for legal services in securing a permit for a gasoline station and auto repair shop in a business section of the city. Wiedhopf said Wolf told him he had political influence, but his alleged "pull" failed to produce results.

In dismissing the case, Judge Tierney said: "The law condemns such an employment as illegal on account of its tendency to bring into force the action of public officials. The agreement for such employment is void on grounds of public policy; it is unenforceable, and a plaintiff who bases his right to recovery upon the non-performance of the contract has no standing in court."

WORLD STEEL TRUST NO LONGER FRIGHTENS

New York, Dec. 17.—The European and British steel trust no longer alarms American steel interests. Reports from Europe indicate that the huge combine is not living up to expectations.

While the Europeans have cheaper labor, it is not cheap in the long run because of the Americans' modern machinery and mass production that adds skill to labor. Moreover, the home market with which the Americans are favored. These advantages have more than nullified the cheap labor of Europe, which is no longer a bugaboo to the Americans.

CAN'T EXPLOIT CHILDREN

Portland, Ore., Dec. 17.—The school board rules that business concerns can not use the public schools to recruit holiday employes. The Central Labor Council showed that one concern hired the children a few hours a day under the guise of "teaching them business methods."